



# Air Force Research Laboratory|AFRL

*Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Air and Space Force*

## **Success Story**

### **DR. JAMES T. WEBB RECEIVES AsMA PAUL BERT AWARD FOR PHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH**



The Aerospace Physiology Society of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) established the Paul Bert Award for Physiological Research in 1969 and presented the award annually for outstanding research contributions in the field of aerospace physiology. The AsMA named the award in honor of the famous French physiologist and “Father of Pressure Physiology.”



Air Force Research Laboratory  
Wright-Patterson AFB OH

### **Accomplishment**

The Aerospace Physiology Society of the AsMA recently awarded Dr. James T. Webb the Paul Bert Award for Physiological Research for his contributions to the field of aerospace physiological research. Dr. Webb, a Fellow of AsMA since May 1994, is the altitude lead scientist with the Human Effectiveness Directorate's Biodynamics and Protection Division Protective Systems Branch.

His method of prebreathe enhancement was instrumental in saving the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) more than \$3 million. It also kept two pilots flying the U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft, who otherwise would have been reassigned to different airframes at considerable expense to the United States Air Force (USAF).

### **Background**

Dr. Webb's career spans over 20 years in high-altitude protection research for civilian, Department of Defense, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircrews. A recognized expert, Dr. Webb advises Special Operations Forces, NATO, the Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Combat Command in matters pertaining to decompression sickness (DCS), exercise-enhanced prebreathe, and unpressurized high-altitude missions.

As one member of a three-man team and coinvestigator for more than 44 studies, his expertise is invaluable in DCS prevention research. Hired in 1987, as a contract scientist with Wyle Laboratories, his extensive knowledge and attention to detail garnered him the position of lead scientist in 1994. During his tenure, he coauthored more than 100 publications and was lead author on 68 publications.

AsMA, considered the international leader in aviation, space, and environmental medicine, applies and advances scientific knowledge to promote and enhance the health, safety, and performance of those involved in aerospace and related activities. From the 1929 organizational meeting of 29 aeromedical examiners, the association has grown to its present strength of more than 3,500 members from 76 countries. The AsMA formed the Aerospace Physiology Society in 1965 and serves physiologists working with crewmembers from the USAF, US Navy, NASA, and NATO.

Human Effectiveness  
Awards and Recognition

### **Additional information**

To receive more information about this or other activities in the Air Force Research Laboratory, contact TECH CONNECT, AFRL/XPTC, (800) 203-6451 and you will be directed to the appropriate laboratory expert. (03-HE-24)